

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of Correspondents, unless editorially endorsed.

To the Editor of the Sentinel:

SIR,—As I intend to apply to the House of Assembly this winter for a grant to remunerate me for losses sustained in building Eel River Bridge, I wish through your paper to show to the public such of the expenses as I am prepared to prove, and give an opportunity to any one, who finds I have made a misstatement, to correct it. I will be as short as possible.

I took the bridge to build for £800, and now will show what I can of what I paid out.

WAGES PAID FOR WORK DONE, GETTING MATERIALS, AND BUILDING.

Paid—		Paid—	
David Farrel	£8 12 6	Ed. Bagley & Sons	£48 16 3
Solomon Dow & Son	58 11 3	Charles Dickinson	2 1 6
Thos. Wright & Son	48 2 6	Levi Dow	23 3 9
Walter Britt	69 13 0	Eli Sawyer	30 0 0
Richard Holyoak	31 17 0	Wm. Latham	15 6 3
Simon Fraser	23 2 0	J. C. Dow	24 7 9
Ezekiel Slood	14 15 0	John Stithan	6 4 9
James Olmstead	18 0 0	Darius Dickinson	4 7 6
John Hawksley	29 0 9	Wm. Graham	6 4 9
Wm. Johnston	3 5 0	Wm. Coulthard	3 0 0
Godfrey Worth	4 10 0	Joseph Scott	12 10 0
Wesley Prichard	10 0 0	W. Briggs	10 0 0
Stephen Tibodeau	8 10 0	Joseph Neely	7 10 0
John Birk	6 10 0	Obad Dickinson	9 7 0
Hiram Wright	2 0 0	John Wright	1 0 0
W. H. Dickinson	5 2 6		
	£351 11 6	(Brought over)	351 11 6

Total of wages	£355 11 6
502 weeks' board, at 12s. 6d.	313 15 0
Stampage on spruce for flooring	3 15 0
Stampage for cedar for Bridge	4 0 0
Paying men for running nine cedar rafts from Rapid de Femme to Eel River	22 10 0
Iron-work done by Moore, £15; iron, £22	37 0 0
David Dow for sawing flooring	15 0 0
Stampage to Wm. Calicut for pine and tamarack	1 10 0
E. Debeck for tamarack for trennales	1 10 0
For two sticks of timber for stringers	6 0 0
For hay and oats	84 0 0
Work of three horses eleven months at 60s. per month	33 0 0
One yoke of oxen eleven months at 20s. per month	11 0 0
My own work eleven months, and board	100 0 0
	£1188 11 6

Besides the wear and tear of warps, blocks, axes, chains, &c. &c.

With all this loss, I would not ask to be remunerated if I was able to pay the debts which that bridge caused me to contract. When I took that bridge to build, I had some money and means; not so when the bridge was done, nor has it been since; and, as I have often been advised (by those who knew that I lost heavily by the job,) to apply to the House for remuneration, and seeing that others have been remunerated for losses sustained, whose claims cannot be better than mine, if as good, I am induced to lay my claims before the public, the House of Assembly, Council and Governor.

It may be well to bear in mind that the bridge at Woodstock cost as much as Eel River Bridge, all to twenty-three pounds, and that the builder of that bridge obtained one hundred pounds to remunerate him, which I have no doubt he deserved.

Now, I am bold to say that no sane man would or could be made to believe, but that Eel River Bridge cost one half the amount more than Woodstock Bridge. One has one abutment, 32x20 feet, and 18 feet high, of hewed timber; the other has three abutments of hewed cedar, two of which are 40x30 feet, and 40 feet high,—though battening on both sides, have over three times the material and costs in each of the two abutments,—beside one of same material, 30x15 feet, and 15 feet high. The expense of stone filling, and fenders, I suppose about equal.

I must boast a little. I challenge any one to say one word against the material or work of Eel River Bridge.

Yours, &c.

ENOCH DOW.

CANTERBURY, Feb. 3, 1857.

To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel:

SIR,—Please give the following insertion in your paper, and oblige yours.

Many remarks have been made by various writers, respecting the present "School Act" of New Brunswick. Some say that it is less, others that it is more efficacious than the preceding one; but all acknowledge that it requires amendment. It is the opinion of many people that it should be mended with a new one, and it is my impression that is the best way it will ever be patched. Every one who appreciates the advantages of a good education, however, will not hesitate in saying, that the present system does not furnish proper means for obtaining it.

At present, Teachers of the third class receive their licence to teach, upon the recommendation of the Local Inspector, without attending the Training School. This, I think, is not right; the County Inspector in some measure, is an interested person, and should have nothing to do with the

passing of Teachers whose schools he will inspect. All Teachers should be examined and passed by the same Board of Examiners.

I cannot conceive why it would not be just as fair for the County Inspectors to examine for first class teachers as third. He is certainly competent of testing the qualifications of one teacher as well as the other, since he is the Inspector of all classes. And of the three qualities of teachers, it is my opinion the third needs training the most. For not having so liberal an education as either of the other classes, the ideas of the third class teacher must in general, of course, be restrained to a more limited sphere. Besides, he is commonly employed where the rudiments of learning require to be taught; and if the fundamental principles are not properly laid, a very important part will be defective. Therefore, if it is necessary that any Teacher should go through a course of discipline, in order to impart instruction with more efficacy to his pupils, I certainly think it is the Teacher of the third class, or at least he needs as much of the Training School as either the first or second class Teacher does.

But the prospect of what he will realize by teaching a Parish School, is but poor inducement for any young man of principle and education to get himself trained for a teacher. The most successful, at present, can acquire but a pitiful subsistence by school-teaching, particularly if he has a family. First class Teachers, in many instances, can obtain no more from the people than is the allowance of the third class, and they are obliged to take this, or quit teaching, which in fact many of our best Teachers do.

There are certain Teachers who agree with the people for a mere trifle, if they can only secure the government allowance. And the small remuneration for which they are willing to serve, often induces the inhabitants of poor districts to employ such Teachers, who, if they had to receive their lawful pay, would not be employed at all. Indeed, the people frequently think they are doing well by getting a Teacher so cheap, until experience often proves the sad reverse. It is true, the law requires the people to pay as much to the teacher as the government, but there is no one to enforce this law; it is not imperative. The Trustees seldom or never superintend the engagement of a Teacher. It is also a well-known fact that they hardly ever visit a school, and consequently they give Teachers certificates without knowing, in reality, whether they receive anything from the people, whether they are moral, capable, temperate; or anything about them more than they may hear, or learn from the teacher himself. Now, what, I would ask, is to hinder any Teacher who has imposed himself upon the people to procure the government allowance; or what is there to hinder any of the subscribers to the support of a Teacher to avoid paying him, if any are so inclined? Nothing. The Teacher, in order to obtain his government money, often acknowledges to the Trustees that he has received his pay from the people before he has received one penny of it. And yet this acknowledgment would be sufficient evidence against the Teacher if a suit at law was attempted.

The present practice of supporting Schools by subscription, is also bad in its effects. Many petty disputes arise between the people and Teacher, on account of his having to collect his own salary from them. Some people subscribe willingly, who pay unwillingly, and are always offended if compelled. Huffs and pouts are also frequently occasioned by the Teachers boarding round among the proprietors of the school. It is a poor miserable fashion, and ought to be abolished. Little comfort can be enjoyed by any teacher, in this way; in some houses he is used well, in others just as ill. Some people think he is lazy, others that he is proud; while, perhaps, another will think he is hard to please, and so on. Children should love and respect their Teacher, but what scholar will love or respect the master who, his parents tell him, is an ugly cross man. Much better feelings would prevail between Teachers and their scholars, if the Teacher remained stationary while in any one district, and, if schools are continued to be supported by subscription, if some disinterested party collected the Teacher's fees.

In consequence of the above deficiencies and annoyances, School Teaching, instead of being a pleasant, becomes a troublesome, and ill-paid occupation; and many of our best Teachers, after a short trial, get disgusted with it, and quit the business. Generally speaking a capable School Teacher will also be a capable man at many other things; and he has only to use a little circumspection to find employment, at which he can make double the money, with half the difficulty.

Many of the youth of our Province have grown up in ignorance, incapable of even reading a chapter in "God's Word," or writing their own names. They are still continuing, and will continue to do

so, until more stringent measures be adopted for their education, than at present exists. Some people do not appreciate the benefit of education, others sacrifice the instruction of their children to some spite they may have, either at the Teacher or the other inhabitants of the district; while in new Settlements, many who are anxious to give their children good learning, find themselves too few in number and too poor to effect the fond object of their love and care. I am sincerely of the opinion general taxation would be the fairest and squarest foundation upon which to construct an educational course ever yet discovered. Were it in operation, the rich would then help to educate the poor, the inhabitants of old settlements contribute to the support of schools in the new—Teachers would neither have to board round, nor collect subscriptions from the people—and the neutral and contentious finding they would have to pay their part towards the support of education, would then in all probability send their children to school.

The welfare of posterity greatly depends upon education—our country will be honoured, and her duties performed, in a great degree as her sons and daughters are educated. Surely then he does his country an important service, who, by any means, diffuses useful knowledge among its inhabitants. He is indeed a patriot, and well deserves a patriot's praise.

A system to facilitate, and spread the means of education, has, among the wise and good in all ages, formed the subject of many animated discussions. But our Legislators have overlooked this important matter with indifference. These two years past, it has scarcely been mentioned or only mentioned, to be thrown aside. They have passed and repealed the Prohibitory Law, made long speeches upon the St. Andrews and Quebec Railroad, but education has been treated with neglect. In vain will they try to enforce laws, until the body of the people are informed to comprehend their utility—in vain will they look for obedience and submission from an uneducated populace. Education should be the first step taken in our Government. I hope next Session our Representatives will not again jump over it, and that they will remember the examples set by Canada and Nova Scotia.

I am Sir,

Yours,

A FRIEND TO EDUCATION.

Richmond, January 30, 1857.

To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel:

SIR,—You can inform your friend that there is a Grist Mill in Woodstock (that of Messrs. R. & H. Davis,) with apparatus for cleansing wheat of smut, which can make clean flour of smutty wheat when the wheat is dry and in good order otherwise.

A FRIEND.

Woodstock, Feb. 12, 1856.

The Carleton Sentinel.

WOODSTOCK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1857.

BY TELEGRAPH.

[Reported for the Sentinel.]

FREDERICTON, February 12.

In consequence of a fire at Government House, which however, did not result seriously, the House of Assembly did not meet until 4 o'clock: at which time His Excellency came in the usual state to the Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, commanded the attendance of the House of Assembly: who being come, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following SPEECH:

"Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

"It affords me much satisfaction to meet you on your reassembling for the discharge of your Legislative duties.

"I have given directions that there should be laid before you the reports which have been received by the Government respecting the existing state of the various constituencies in the Province. A condition of affairs in which large numbers of those to whom it was the intention of the Legislature to entrust the franchise, cannot legally exercise that privilege, will not, I am sure, be permitted by you to continue.

"I rejoice to be able to announce to you that considerable progress has been made in the Railway works in course of construction; and a gratifying proof has been afforded of the confidence which is reposed by the capitalists of the mother country, both in the good faith and in the resources of this Province, by the ready sale, at a premium, of the Debentures issued to defray the cost of these works. Documents fully explaining the present condition of the Railway works, and the proceedings of the Government in connection with them, will be laid before you; and a measure will be submitted to you, having for its object the diminution of the cost of superintending the expenditure

on Railways, without impairing the efficiency of that superintendence.

"The attention of the Government has been directed to the inefficiency of the existing means of conveyance, both of passengers and goods, between the various ports on the northern and eastern shores of this Province; and Prince Edward Island. You will, I am confident, recognize the advantages which the Province would derive from increased facilities of commercial intercourse with that Colony. The Government of Prince Edward Island are prepared to co-operate in making such arrangements as would afford to the people of both Colonies the advantages of a more complete system of inter-communication between them, and a proposal will be submitted to you for carrying into effect these arrangements.

"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

"The fiscal Accounts of the past year will be laid before you. These Accounts will, I hope, be found to exhibit, with clearness and accuracy, both the receipts and the expenditures of the year; and I congratulate you on the improved condition of the finances of the Province.

"Estimates also of the revenue and of the expenditure for the current year, have been prepared by the Government and will be submitted to you.

"Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

"In accordance with the desire expressed by the House of Assembly, the Government has, during the recess, been engaged in the consideration of the means whereby a healthy stream of Immigration hither may be best promoted. The correspondence, and other documents, explanatory of the progress which has hitherto been made in maturing the scheme for this purpose, will be laid before you; and I do not doubt that these documents will receive from you that calm and careful consideration to which they are entitled, as well from their importance as from the complicated nature of the subject to which they relate.

"In other Colonies commerce has been extended and a new impetus has been given both to Immigration and to the investment of capital from the United Kingdom by the establishment of direct steam-communication with the mother country. I should view with lively satisfaction, any step for the attainment of this object which could be taken with a due regard to financial considerations.

"I have received from the Secretary of State an important Dispatch relative to the Civil List Fund. This Dispatch will be laid before you.

"The Law which regulates Parish Schools will shortly expire. Your attention will necessarily be directed to this important subject.

"The Council of King's College have submitted to me, as the Visitor of that institution, a Report, of which a copy will be laid before you. I commend this Report to your attentive consideration.

"I have given effect to the wish of the House of Assembly that a Commission should be appointed to consider the means by which the successful culture of the soil may be best promoted. The Commission is now engaged in making the necessary enquiries on this subject; and I trust that those who are engaged in this important branch of industry may derive permanent advantage from the labours of the Commissioners.

"During the past year, the staple article of export from the Province was depressed in value, while the potatoe crop was seriously injured, and in some districts wholly destroyed, by the blight; and, although the fisheries were at least as productive as usual, both the commercial and agricultural industry of the Province suffered a temporary check. But the general condition of the people is, I am happy to believe, one of comfort and contentment.

"Gratefully acknowledging the numerous blessings which have been bestowed upon us, and our dependence on Providence for their continuance, I rely with confidence upon your devotion to the public interest, and I fervently hope that your deliberations may conduce to the honor and permanent welfare of the Province."

After the return of the Members of the Assembly, Mr. Fisher moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Law. Leave granted.

Speaker stated that having issued writs to supply the places of Messrs. Montgomery and Macpherson, vacant on account of their acceptance of office, the same gentlemen had been re-elected, been duly qualified, and had taken their seats.

The members are, I believe, all present, and of course much excitement prevails; but the government and its supporters are not, I think, very sanguine.

Mr. Hogg has the contract for Reporting, and the Committee have approved of Mr. J. S. Hay and S. Watts as Reporters.

Mr. Boyd moved, Mr. Desbrisay seconded, the Answer to the Speech—a mere echo, which was received; and Monday next appointed to go into its consideration.

FREDERICTON, February 13th.

No business of importance transacted to-day.—Report of Debate Committee accepted. 3,000 copies to be furnished three times a week for £473. £200 of which to pay Reporters. Our prospects still continue hopeful.

ALBANY, Feb. 9, 1857.

A tremendous flood on evening of 8th; estimated damage, \$2000,000. City throughout the night scene of the greatest confusion from fire and water.